

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A person identification certificate link system comprising an entity which forms a link correlating at least two certificates including a public key certificate which stores a public key serving as a cryptographic key and which is generated by a certificate authority and a person identification certificate which stores a template serving as person identification data and which is generated by a person identification certificate authority, thereby specifying one related certificate based on the other certificate.

2. A person identification certificate link system according to Claim 1, wherein the link between the certificates comprises a link which relates the person identification certificate with the public key certificate of a public key applied to encrypt the template stored in the person identification certificate.

3. A person identification certificate link system according to Claim 1, wherein the link between the certificates comprises a link which relates the person identification certificate with the public key certificate which are both used to establish a connection with a data

communication partner.

4. A person identification certificate link system according to Claim 1, wherein one of the public key certificate and the person identification certificate stores, as data, an identifier of a different certificate which is linked thereto.

5. A person identification certificate link system according to Claim 1, wherein one of the public key certificate and the person identification certificate stores, as data, an identifier of a link structure serving as link identification data and identifiers of the linked public key certificate and person identification certificate.

6. A person identification certificate link system according to Claim 1, wherein group information including a group of identifiers of the linked public key certificate and person identification certificate is formed and managed as data separate from the certificates.

7. A person identification certificate link system according to Claim 1, wherein:
group information including a group of identifiers of the linked public key certificate and person identification

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certificate is formed and managed as data separate from the certificates; and

a link for specifying, based on the group information serving as primary information, secondary information related to the group information is formed.

8. A person identification certificate link system according to Claim 1, wherein one of the public key certificate and the person identification certificate stores a different certificate which is linked thereto.

9. A person identification certificate link system according to Claim 1, wherein the certificate authority and the person identification certificate authority are formed as third-party agencies which are not users of the public key certificate and the person identification certificate.

10. An information processing apparatus for authenticating a person by comparing a template which is person identification data acquired beforehand with sampling information input by a user, said information processing apparatus comprising an entity which encrypts and stores template information including the template; which obtains the encrypted template from a person identification certificate generated by a person identification certificate

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authority, which is a third-party agency; which specifies a public key certificate in accordance with link information stored in the person identification certificate; which specifies a cryptographic key to the template based on the specified public key certificate; and which encrypts or decrypts the template.

11. An information processing apparatus for authenticating a person by comparing a template which is person identification data acquired beforehand with sampling information input by a user, said information processing apparatus comprising an entity which obtains an encrypted template from a person identification certificate generated by a person identification certificate authority, which is a third-party agency, and which authenticates the person based on the template; and which specifies a public key certificate in accordance with link information stored in the person identification certificate and which performs mutual authentication or encrypted data communication with a data communication partner based on the specified public key certificate.

12. An information processing method for authenticating a person by comparing a template which is person identification data acquired beforehand with sampling

information input by a user, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

 encrypting and storing template information including the template and obtaining the encrypted template from a person identification certificate generated by a person identification certificate authority, which is a third-party agency;

 specifying a public key certificate in accordance with link information stored in the person identification certificate and specifying a cryptographic key to the template based on the specified public key certificate; and

 encrypting or decrypting the template.

13. An information processing method for authenticating a person by comparing a template which is person identification data acquired beforehand with sampling information input by a user, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

 obtaining an encrypted template from a person identification certificate generated by a person identification certificate authority, which is a third-party agency, and authenticating the person based on the template; and

 specifying a public key certificate in accordance with link information stored in the person identification

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certificate and performing mutual authentication or encrypted data communication with a data communication partner based on the specified public key certificate.

14. A program providing medium for providing a computer program that causes a computer system to authenticate a person by comparing a template which is person identification data acquired beforehand with sampling information input by a user, said computer program comprising the steps of:

encrypting and storing template information including the template and obtaining the encrypted template from a person identification certificate generated by a person identification certificate authority, which is a third-party agency;

specifying a public key certificate in accordance with link information stored in the person identification certificate and specifying a cryptographic key to the template based on the specified public key certificate; and encrypting or decrypting the template.

15. A program providing medium for providing a computer program that causes a computer system to authenticate a person by comparing a template which is person identification data acquired beforehand with sampling

information input by a user, said computer program comprising the steps of:

obtaining an encrypted template from a person identification certificate generated by a person identification certificate authority, which is a third-party agency, and authenticating the person based on the template; and

specifying a public key certificate in accordance with link information stored in the person identification certificate and performing mutual authentication or encrypted data communication with a data communication partner based on the specified public key certificate.

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